

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 because of informalities; and rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,510,525 of Nookala et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,327 of Hobson. The Examiner also objected to claims 2, 6, 10, 11, 14 and 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11, 13, and 15-18. Applicant has also canceled claims 2, 10, 14 and 19-21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-13, and 15-18 remain pending.

Applicant has amended claims 4, 5, 16, and 17 to overcome the informalities identified by the Examiner. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to these claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 19-21 under § 103(a) as unpatentable over of Nookala et al. in view of Hobson. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, Applicant has amended and canceled claims to incorporate the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner into the pending claims in order to place this application in condition for allowance. In particular, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 9, and 13 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 10, and 14, respectively. Applicant has also rewritten in independent form each of claims 6, 11, and 18, to which the Examiner objected, to include the limitations of their respective base claims, there being no intervening claims. Applicant has also amended claims 3 and 15 to respectively

conform to amended claims 1 and 13. Additionally, Applicant has amended claim 7 to correct an inadvertent grammatical error.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that pending claims 1, 3-9, 11-13, and 15-18 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections and rejections and allow the application.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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